

FEDS CONFER WITH ORGANIZED BASEBALL MAGNATES, BUT REACH NO AGREEMENT

NATIONAL COMMISSION IS UP AGAINST BUSINESS MEN IN MEETING FEDERAL MOGULS

Herrmann and Johnson Find It Difficult to Ride Over the "Outlaws" as They Have Been Accustomed to Doing in O. B.

IN THE big baseball drama now being played at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York, the members of the National Commission are the actors and the Federal magnates the audience. Will the audience approve of the acting? That is the agitating question which is shaking baseball to its foundations.

The National Commission is putting on a series of acts and presenting them in the form of "peace proposals." The Federal League is looking on, dissecting the acts and biding its time in giving a definite answer.

Obviously the National Commission is up against a proposition to which it is a total stranger. In the past it has been the habit of this body to run baseball to suit itself entirely, whether the lesser lights approved or not. If a protest were made by an owner, or any one else, the National Commission frowned and usually "squashed" the intruder.

Federal League Stands for Its Rights

The Federal League has shown that it will not be "squashed," and that is what is getting under the skin of the National Commission. The commission is dealing with business men. They may be great lovers of baseball, but they know more about business than baseball, consequently, the National Commission is not able to put "anything over" that would in any way conflict with the ideas of the Federal League magnates. "Our terms must be fairly met," is the sentiment of the Feds expressed by President Gilmore.

Unquestionably the delay in the two factions reaching an agreement is caused by the Federal League's failure to "fall" for the bundle of proposals offered by the National Commission, which is now empowered to represent organized baseball at the peace meeting.

National League Bowled to the Federals

The attitude of the National Commission toward the Federal League makes it plain now that it really was the National League, and not the Federal, which began peace negotiations. If the opposite were true, the National Commission would be deciding whether they would accept the terms of the Federals, or not. But as it is, the commission is presenting the terms of peace and the Feds are considering their acceptance.

In the past, open meetings of the National Commission were conducted this way:

Ban Johnson to Chairman Herrmann—"Well, Garry, the meeting is open." Garry to Ban—"Yes, Ban, it's open." (Mr. Tener is silent.) Ban—"Let's do this and so, Garry." Garry—"All right, Ban, that looks good to me." (Mr. Tener is still silent.) Garry—"Well, I think we've fixed up everything all right, don't you, Ban?" Ban—"Yes, I think so, Garry." Garry—"Everything's all right, isn't it, Mr. Tener?" Mr. Tener—"Yes."

But Now the Scene Is Changed

These methods of the National Commission cannot be used against the Federal League, unfortunately for organized baseball. The present meeting seems to be going this way:

Herrmann—"Well, I propose this, what do you think of it, gentlemen?" B. Johnson—"It's all right." Mr. Gilmore—"Yes, it's all right from your viewpoint, but where do we get off? This and that are things we won't stand for. Now, you'll have to come again, Mr. Herrmann." Herrmann—"Well, let me talk to Ban a minute." He talks to Ban. Herrmann—"You are right, Mr. Gilmore. I should have said that we would do this, not that." Gilmore—"That's better, Mr. Herrmann; but still there is this that which must be done this way and not that way, etc."

All of which seems to indicate that when the smoke of battle has cleared away organized baseball will have either failed to make peace or it will have accepted many amendments to its own well-formulated plans.

Football Committee Makes Wise Move

Members of the Football Committee at the University of Pennsylvania went a long way toward quelling the dissatisfaction among the students and alumni yesterday when they conferred with Dr. M. S. Bennett, William M. Hollenback and Robert C. Folwell on the coaching situation. As these men are the popular choices at the University, the committee showed that it was fair and impartial, and the best man would be selected for the position.

While no announcement has been made, it is believed by those on the inside that Mike Bennett will get the job. Bennett is not connected in any way with any of the cliques at Penn, and would be an ideal compromise candidate. Moreover, he is favored by Dr. Carl S. Williams and Captain Nell Mathews. Doctor Bennett knows modern football and, if made head coach, will turn out a good team. His work at Haverford College in the last two years places him in the front rank of gridiron tutors in the country.

Sharpe an Ideal Coach for Yale

Although the committee appointed by the Yale Athletic Association denies that Al Sharpe has been named to succeed Hinkey as coach of the Blue gridiron warriors, it is certain that he is being considered. The probable reason for the failure of the committee to state outright that Sharpe is wanted, is the fact that the Cornell director of athletics has just finished his first year on a five-year contract at Ithaca.

If Sharpe is released by Cornell from this contract, there is no doubt that he will take the position of head coach at Yale, where he would make an ideal man for the position.

One-man System Badly Needed by Elis

Cornell has risen in athletics during the regime of Sharpe because he is essentially an advocate of the "one-man system." Not only is Sharpe an advocate of that system, but he refuses anything else. He is willing to make or break himself on his own judgment in all matters pertaining to the team. He does this not on the basis of egotism, but on the theory that two heads are worse than one when athletic methods are to be tried out.

Yale needs just such a system. For years the Elis have had so many coaches that nobody knew where the other man stood. The men on the field received contradictory orders every day. Such a system could be but one thing, ultimate failure—and Yale failed. Therefore, they need a new system and Sharpe is the man who could give it to them.

And the Dear Old Public Is Stung Again

The bigger they come the harder the public falls in the fight game. Since the Willard-Fulton articles were signed in Chicago three days ago we have heard strange noises about the "battle for the championship." Willard will begin training at once for his \$32,500 purse, and Fulton has decided to get into condition by accepting an offer to go on the vaudeville stage. As the battle will be staged in New Orleans on March 4, the challenger should be able to perform several weeks behind the footlights and make enough money to retire after the fight.

Tom Jones, Willard's manager, is worried over the outcome of the battle. He is sorry his man was not able to meet Jim Coffey or Frank Moran. He knows what these men can do, but Fulton's record is shrouded in mystery. Tom is right about this, because Fulton has no record. Neither has Bud Wilbur, of Conshohocken, or Hi Harvey, of Oskaloosa, Iowa. All that Mr. Jones knows is that Mr. Fulton is 6 feet 4 inches tall, weighs 220 pounds and is in good physical condition. Yet he is willing to risk the world's heavyweight championship in a battle with a perfect stranger. And he says the \$32,500 is only a minor consideration.

Ad Wolgast's Fighting Days are Over

Ad Wolgast's pugilistic days are about over. The former lightweight champion was forced to quit in the sixth round of his bout with Leach Cross last night. It was the second time this week that the "Michigan Wild Cat" had to stop—the other affair being at Atlanta.

Last night the former champion was battered to a pulp. His face was streaming with blood, the result of an old wound being opened, completely obscuring his vision. The referee stopped the fight. But while he could see Wolgast was not the Wolgast of old. He took all of Cross' cruel punishment and kept gamely plunging in for more.

Walter B. Elock, coach of the Washington and Lee football team for the last two years, has notified the Southern college that he would be back next year. This probably means that the Generals will have another good team.

THE MASHIE

